

M I C H I G A N Agriculture News



ROGER KAHN, M.D. OUR STATE SENATOR *Saginaw and Gratiot Counties*

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Dear Friend:

As the auto and manufacturing industries struggle, agriculture has kept Michigan's economic motor running. It's our state's second largest industry, accounting for nearly \$64 billion in economic activity last year and growing.

Here at home, agriculture is an important part of the economic vitality and rural quality of life. I am writing to update you on some of our legislative work to support our farmers and the rest of the agricultural community.

If there is any way I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 866-305-2132 or by e-mail at senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov. Best wishes for a productive and prosperous 2008!

Sincerely,

Roger Kahn, M.D.
State Senator, 32nd District

TOP 5 — 2006 MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Dairy products:.....	\$936.3 million
Floriculture and Nursery:.....	\$642.4 million
Corn:	\$552.8 million
Soybeans:	\$453.9 million
Cattle and calves:.....	\$294.6 million
All commodities:	\$4.5 billion

FROM SENATOR KAHN'S SCRAPBOOK

I look forward to every summer and the many agricultural events throughout Saginaw and Gratiot counties. It's important people get out and become educated about the role farming plays in mid-Michigan...



Bryce Tomac of the Brady 4-H club and I at the Saginaw County Fair. I bought his lamb, with proceeds benefitting the Saginaw County Agricultural Society. Bryce is the Son of Pennie and Frank Tomac.



I always enjoy attending the Oakley Old Gas Tractor Pull!



Jacob Brennan and I at the 2008 Gratiot Fair for Youth. I purchased his chicken with the proceeds donated to the Gratiot County Commission on Aging. Jacob is the son of Mike and Monica Brennan.



Laura Bushre and I chatted after I purchased her rabbits. Laura is the daughter of Mike and Kelly Bushre.

New Law Protects FARMERS

Trespassers can damage crops and livestock. I supported legislation to help farmers protect their property and investments.

Senate legislation now signed into law helps farmers better protect their property and livelihood from trespassers. Public Act 167 of 2007 (Senate Bill 540) prohibits people from entering a farmer's property without the owner's consent. Posted or fenced-in property is considered a sufficient enough warning to keep people out.

Violators are subject to a misdemeanor charge.

SENATOR KAHN SUPPORTS STRICTER OVERSIGHT OF PESTICIDE SALES

A new law levels the playing field for Michigan agricultural pesticide dealers. Public Act 18 of 2008 (Senate Bill 682) requires out-of-state vendors to obtain a license and maintain a registered office and a registered agent in the state.

The law requires the licensed dealer to report sales to the pesticide registrant to make sure all firms are paying the state's water protection fee. In addition, the increased oversight allows the state to better track the sale of agricultural pesticides.

PESTICIDE

Highlights Land Conservation

Spring not only heralds the start of planting season, but the arrival of Michigan Conservation Week! This year's event focused on land conservation and the work of our land conservancies.

The week-long celebration highlighted new legislation and honored local conservancy groups in their mission to protect natural assets in our communities. Many family farmers have looked to local land trusts to help protect the land they love and ensure future generations can work and enjoy it.



Sen. Roger Kahn discusses land conservation with property owner Ken Wenzlick and Greg Eagle of the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy.

Bovine TB discovery requires vigilance

Earlier this winter, a deer taken by a hunter in Shiawassee County tested positive for bovine Tuberculosis (TB), more than 100 miles south of the northern Lower Michigan bovine TB zone.

The Department of Agriculture has designated a 10-mile radius around the site as a Potential High Risk Area. Cattle herds in the area are being tested for the disease.

Since eradication efforts began in 1995, all of the state's one million cattle have been tested for bovine TB. To date, all cattle outside the bovine TB zone have been free of the disease. Hopefully, this is an isolated incident and the bovine TB-free trend continues.

The cattle industry contributes significantly to the Michigan economy each year.

Stay on top of this issue at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

SENATOR KAHN SUPPORTS NEW LAW TO ENHANCE FOOD SAFETY

The updated Michigan Food Law puts more teeth in food safety protection and provides long-awaited uniform industry regulations.

Public Acts 113-114 of 2007 (Senate Bill 595, House Bill 4956) adopt the 2005 version of the federal food code and change the system of inspection to one focused on controlling risk factors to prevent food-borne illnesses. The law requires that food establishments, including restaurants, grocery stores, food distributors and food

processing plants, have at least one managerial employee who is formally trained in food safety and sanitation.

For more information, including food law updates and fact sheets, visit www.michigan.gov/mda. Click on Food Safety on the right sidebar.

In a related matter, Senate legislation passed into law earlier this year updates the state's dairy laws.



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Copper Theft is a Growing Concern

Farmers in some areas of the state have been hit hard by the theft of copper, a component in irrigation systems. This larceny has cost farmers thousands of dollars and disrupted their operations.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that businesses nationwide have lost around \$1 billion from copper wire thefts that have disrupted electricity and slowed construction projects, as well as broken irrigation systems. The thefts can also compromise emergency services as 9-1-1 service is carried on copper wires.

I introduced legislation to help stem the tide of valuable metal theft. Senate Bill 1254 would regulate scrap processors, making it harder for thieves to sell stolen copper and scrap metal.

Resources for Agriculture

Michigan Department of Agriculture
www.michigan.gov/mda

U.S. Department of Agriculture
www.usda.gov

Agricultural Statistics Service
www.nass.usda.gov/mi

USDA Rural Development
www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi/
Phone: 800-944-8119

Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov

MSU Extension
www.msue.msu.edu

MSU Product Center
(Commercialization Assistance)
www.productcenter.msu.edu
phone: 517-432-8750

MSU Agriculture Weather Office
www.agweather.geo.msu.edu

Emerald Ash Borer
www.michigan.gov/eab
Phone: 866-325-0023

West Nile Virus
www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases
Phone: 888-668-0869

Bovine Tuberculosis
www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases
Phone: 517-373-1077

